



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/080,685

02/25/2002

Toshiro Haze

111924

8375

25944

7590

05/04/2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. BOX 19928
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER

CHANG, JUNGWON

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2154

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/080,685

Applicant(s)

HAZE ET AL.

Examiner

Jungwon Chang

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 February 2006.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

FINAL ACTION

1. This action is in response to amendment filed on 2/15/06. Claims 1-27 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-6 and 8-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto (2001/0012121), in view of Hayashi (US 5,479,485).

4. As to claims 1, 14 and 21, Yamamoto discloses the invention substantially as claimed, including a communication apparatus (fig. 1) that communicates with a remote center (electronic mail server; page 1, [0008], [0011]; www server; page 3, [0049]; page 4, [0058]-[0061]; portable terminal; 7; fig. 1) to receive data from the remote center (page 1, [0008], [0011], [0013]; page 3, [0049]; page 4, [0058]-[0061]), the communication apparatus comprising:

a master unit (20, fig. 1) that receives the data from the remote center (page 1, [0013]; page 4, [0059], [0061], [0072]-[0073]);

a plurality of slave units (cordless slave unit, 6, fig. 1; 15, fig. 1) that receive the data from the remote center, via the master unit (page 4, [0065], [0072]-[0073]; page 6, [0099]); and

a control circuit (5, 14, fig. 1) that controls the master unit (page 3, [0051]-[0054]) and the plurality of slave units (page 4, [0072])

5. Yamamoto discloses a control circuit (5, 14, fig. 1) that controls the master unit (page 3, 0051-0054) and the plurality of slave units (page 4, 0072); when one of the plurality of slave units makes a request to the remote center for transmitting the data (S3a, fig. 3; page 5, [0080]; page 1, 0011); and slave unit allows to receive and store data transmitted from the remote center (page 2, [0016]-[0017], [0030], [0032]; page 4, [0072]; page 5, [0079]; page 6, [0099]). Furthermore, Hayashi discloses when one of the plurality of slave units makes a request to the remote center for transmitting the data, only the one that makes the request is allowed to receive and store therein the data transmitted from the remote center (fig. 5; col. 1, lines 31-42; col. 1, line 53 – col. 2, line 19). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Yamamoto and Hayashi because Hayashi's switching between master unit and slave unit would allow only one unit to receive and store the transmitted data in different time slot (col. 2, lines 12-19).

6. As to claim 2, Yamamoto further discloses when the master unit makes the request, the control circuit allows the master unit to receive the data transmitted from

Art Unit: 2154

the remote center and store therein the data (page 2, [0016]-[0018], [0030], [0032]-[0033]), and when one of the plurality of slave units makes the request, the control circuit allows the one of the plurality of slave units to receive the data transmitted from the remote center, via the master unit, and store therein the data (display 6a displays the electronic mail data, which are received from the portable terminal 7 through the radio unit; page 4, [0072], [0065]; page 6, [0099]).

7. As to claim 3, Yamamoto further discloses the remote center has a function of automatically transmitting the data to the master unit (S3a, fig. 3; page 5, [0080]; page 1, [0011]), and the control circuit makes the master unit to transfer the data automatically received from the remote center to the plurality of slave units (radio unit in master unit, 3, fig. 1 inherently has a function to automatically connect to the slave unit, 6 in order to carry out a communication; display 6a displays the electronic mail data, which are received from the portable terminal 7 through the radio unit; page 4, [0072], [0065]; page 6, [0099]).

8. As to claim 4, Yamamoto discloses the master unit has a printer (4, fig. 1), and the control circuit allows (5, fig. 1), only when the master unit makes the request, the printer to print the data received by and stored in the master unit (page 1, [0006]; page 3, [0054]; page 4, [0066]).

9. As to claim 5, Yamamoto discloses the control circuit prohibits the printer from

printing the data stored in the master unit when the control circuit detects authentication information set for the data stored (the executing or not executing of printer 4 is based on the controller, 5; page 4, [0063], [0066], [0067]; page 6, [0090], [0095]).

10. As to claim 6, Yamamoto discloses the master unit has a display (2, fig. 1) on which the data stored in the master unit is displayed (page 1, [0005]; page 3, [0048]; page 5, [0095], [0099]) and each one of the plurality of slave units has a display on which the data stored in each one of the plurality of slave units is displayed (6a, fig. 1; page 3, [0050]), and the control circuit allows the display of the master unit and the display of each one of the plurality of slave units to list thereon reception records associated with pieces of the data stored in the master unit and each one of the plurality of slave units, respectively (controller 5 controls the display 2; page 3, [0051]; page 4, [0072]; page 5, [0095], [0099]), wherein each one of the reception records includes an indication as to whether an associated piece of the data has already been displayed (fig. 5C; record command indicates recording or printing the data, which is not displayed; page 3, [0055]; page 6, [0090]).

11. As to claim 8, it is rejected for the same reasons set forth in claim 1 above. Yamamoto does not specifically disclose the control circuit prohibits the plurality of slave units and master unit from receiving and storing therein the data transmitted from the remote center. Hayashi discloses the control circuit prohibits the plurality of slave units and master unit from receiving and storing therein the data transmitted from the remote

Art Unit: 2154

center. (fig. 5; col. 1, lines 31-42; col. 1, line 53 – col. 2, line 19). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Yamamoto and Hayashi because Hayashi's switching between master unit and slave unit would allow only one unit to receive and store the transmitted data in different time slot (col. 2, lines 12-19).

12. As to claims 9, 16 and 23, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claim 3 above.

13. As to claims 10, 17 and 24, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claim 4 above.

14. As to claims 11, 18 and 25, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claim 5 above.

15. As to claims 12, 19 and 26, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claim 6 above.

16. As to claims 13, 20 and 27, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claim 7 above.

17. As to claims 15 and 22, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth in claim

Art Unit: 2154

2 above.

18. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto (2001/0012121), Hayashi (US 5,479,485), further in view of Kindo et al. (US 6,286,012), hereinafter Kindo.

19. As to claim 7, Yamamoto discloses communication apparatus further communicates with an external terminal (portable terminal 7 is an external device; page 4, [0074]), and when the external terminal designates one of the master unit (20, fig. 1) and the plurality of slave units (6, 15, fig. 1), the control circuit (3, 5, 14, fig. 1) handles collectively, in response to a request from the external terminal (page 4, [0065]; page 6, [0092]), the pieces of the data stored in the designated unit by classifying the pieces of the data (controller 5 classifies received data; page 4, [0068]-[0071]). Yamamoto does not specifically disclose classifying into already displayed pieces and unread pieces. Kindo discloses classifying into already displayed pieces and unread pieces (information filtering unit, fig. 1; classification information filtering unit, fig. 2; col. 2, lines 25-32; col. 3, line 62 – col. 4, line 17; col. 4, lines 44-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Yamamoto, Hayashi, and Kindo because Kindo's classification information filtering unit would provide effects of classifying items and rearranging the items in order of necessity for the user with high accuracy (Kindo, col. 3, lines 1-5)

Conclusion

20. Applicant's arguments filed on 2/15/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

(1) Applicant asserts on pages 1-2 of the Remarks that Yamamoto does not teach or suggest a communication apparatus including "a control circuit that controls the master unit and the plurality of slave units, wherein when one of the plurality of slave units makes the requests to the remote center for transmitting data, only the one of the plurality of slave units that makes the request is allowed to receive and store therein the data transmitted from the remote center.

In reply to argument (1), the examiner respectfully disagrees. Yamamoto clearly discloses a control circuit (5, 14, fig. 1) that controls the master unit and the plurality of slave units, wherein when one of the plurality of slave units makes the requests to the remote center for transmitting data, only the one of the plurality of slave units that makes the request is allowed to receive and store therein the data transmitted from the remote center. On page 3, paragraphs, 0052-0054, which recites in part:

The communicator 14 is connected to the controller 5, the radio unit 3, the handset 15 and the line L. **The communicator 14 performs a line control on the line L at a time of a transmission/reception.**

The communicator 14 modulates a transmission signal inputted from the radio unit 3 or the handset 15, and outputs to the line L. The communicator 14 demodulates a reception signal inputted from the line L, and outputs to the radio unit 3 or the handset 15.

The communicator is used to transmit only one signal (not simultaneously) inputted from the cordless slave unit through the radio unit (page 4, 0065, "radio unit 3 carries out the

Art Unit: 2154

digital data communication x with the cordless slave unit 6”) or the handset to the web server through line L (page 3, 0049, “line L to a WWW server”), and receive only one signal inputted from the server through the line L to the cordless slave unit or the handset. The process of receiving data from the server over the network is called “downloading” that inherently includes receiving and storing therein the data transmitted from the server. Therefore, Yamamoto properly teaches the limitations of “when one of the plurality of slave units makes the requests to the remote center for transmitting data, only the one of the plurality of slave units that makes the request is allowed to receive and store therein the data transmitted from the remote center”. Furthermore, Hayashi discloses when one of the master unit and the plurality of slave units makes a request to the remote center for transmitting the data, only the one that makes the request is allowed to receive and store therein the data transmitted from the remote center (fig. 5; col. 1, lines 31-42; col. 1, line 53 – col. 2, line 19). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Yamamoto and Hayashi because Hayashi’s switching between master unit and slave unit would allow only one unit to receive and store the transmitted data in different time slot (Hayashi, col. 2, lines 12-19).

21. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

Art Unit: 2154

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

22. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jungwon Chang whose telephone number is 571-272-3960. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00 (Monday-Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A Follansbee can be reached on 571-272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jungwon Chang
May 1, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jungwon Chang', is written over the typed name and date.